

REMARKS

The Office Action dated May 12, 2006 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1-22 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 6, and 7 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claims 1-22 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Bajko (WO 02/091785). The rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1, upon which claims 2-7 are dependent, recites a method of reassigning user data in a communications system. The user data includes a plurality of identities for each user. The method includes storing in a user information store a plurality of identities in association with a first serving controller, the plurality of identities being associated with respective registration statuses selected from a registered status and an unregistered status. The method also includes detecting that a user has requested a registration to a second serving controller using at least one of the plurality of identities, issuing a registration termination request identifying the at least one of the plurality of identities, which has been newly assigned to the second serving controller as a result of the requested registration. The method further includes, responsive to the registration termination request, i) issuing a re-registration notification to the user including the at

least one of the plurality of identities which has a registered status and which was not assigned to the second serving controller as a result of the requested registration, and ii) disassociating all identities of the said user from the first serving controller.

Claim 8, upon which claims 9-13 are dependent, recites a communications system including a first serving controller, and a user information store, which holds for a user a plurality of identities in association with the first serving controller, the plurality of identities being associated with respective registration statuses selected from a registered status and an unregistered status. The communications system also includes a second serving controller configured to transfer to the user information store a user authentication request identifying the user. The user information store is operable to detect the user authentication request and includes means for inserting into a registration termination request issued to the first serving controller each identity of that user, which was newly associated to the second serving controller as a result of the user authentication request. The first serving controller is operable, responsive to the registration termination request, to i) issue a re-registration notification to the user including each identity which has a registered status and which was not assigned to the second serving controller as a result of the user authentication request, and ii) disassociate all identities of the the user from the first serving controller.

Claim 14, upon which claims 15-17 are dependent, recites a serving controller for use in a system for providing communication between users. The serving controller includes an interface adapted to communicate with a user information store, whereby a

plurality of identities, each with respective registration statuses, associate a user with the serving controller. The serving controller is operable, responsive to a registration termination request received from the user information store, to i) issue a re-registration notification to the user including each identity which has a registered status and which incorrectly associates the user with the first serving controller, and ii) disassociate all identities of the user from the serving controller.

Claim 18, upon which claims 19-22 are dependent, recites a communications system, utilizing the reassignment of user data comprising a plurality of identities for each user. The system includes storing means for storing in a user information store a plurality of identities in association with a first serving controller, the plurality of identities being associated with respective registration statuses selected from a registered status and an unregistered status. The system further includes detecting means for detecting that a user has requested a registration to a second serving controller using at least one of said plurality of identities, and issuing means for issuing a registration termination request identifying the at least one of the plurality of identities, which has been newly assigned to the second serving controller as a result of the requested registration. The system also includes notification means for issuing a re-registration notification to the user including the at least one of the plurality of identities which has a registered status and which was not assigned to the second serving controller as a result of the requested registration, and disassociating means for disassociating all identities of

the said user from the first serving controller. The notification and disassociating means are responsive to the registration termination request.

As will be discussed below, Bajko fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of the claims, and therefore fails to provide the features discussed above.

Bajko discloses a communication system including a first control entity and a second control entity. A user is provided with at least one registration at the first control entity. The registration of the user at the first entity is transferred to the second control entity in response to another registration of the user at the second control entity. The system may include storage means for storing subscriber information and providing the control entities with subscriber information. An expiry time of a registration of the user or information associated with the status of a registration of the user may also be stored in the storage means. Any of the registrations may expire in response to the expiry of a timer.

Applicants respectfully submit that Bajko fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of the presently pending claims. For example, Bajko does not disclose or suggest “responsive to the registration termination request, i) issuing a re-registration notification to the user including the at least one of the plurality of identities which has a registered status and which was not assigned to the second serving controller as a result of the requested registration, and ii) disassociating all identities of the said user from the first serving controller,” as recited in claim 1, and similarly recited in claims 8, 14, and 18.

Therefore, according to embodiments of the present invention, if, in a registration procedure, the previously assigned S-CSCF does not respond to the register message sent from the I-CSCF after a timeout, a new S-CSCF is assigned for the user. As illustrated in Figure 3 of the present application, a failed registration request is transmitted from the user equipment UE1 to the first S-CSCF1, 42. A subsequent registration request is successfully made to the second S-CSCF2, 43.

However, in order to request authentication information and to inform the HSS that the user equipment UE1 has been registered with S-CSCF2, the S-CSCF2 issues a Multimedia-Auth-Request (MAR) command which identifies the second S-CSCF2. The home subscriber server 37 receives the MAR command and, noticing that the command includes a different S-CSCF name than the previous one which had been stored, dispatches an RTR command towards the first S-CSCF1 via the Cx interface. The home subscriber server 37 inserts, into the RTR command, the deregistration reason NEW_SERVER_ASSIGNED, and also inserts the public identities belonging to the same implicitly registered set as the notified public identity Pid1. When the first S-CSCF1 receives the RTR command with the deregistration reason assigned to the value NEW_SERVER_ASSIGNED, it removes the user data of those public identities which are in the request and the user data of all other public identities, which are related to the same UE1. It also issues a NOTIFY message to the user equipment UE1 identifying the public identities/identity sets which had a registered status and which were not included in the RTR command, and which have now been deregistered from S-CSCF1. The

NOTIFY message contains an indication for the user equipment UE1 to re-register these public identities at the new S-CSCF2.

Bajko discloses that the interrogating control entity (I-CSCF) selects a second control entity (S-CSCF2) rather than a first control entity (S-CSCF1) when the first control entity is not available. However, Bajko makes no mention of a registration termination request. Specifically, Bajko only discloses that “the interrogating server may then request (6.) for registration from the second controller entity 23. At step (7.) the public identifier that associated with the request (1.) is registered at the second controller entity 23. Then at step (8.) other public identifiers are transferred to the second controller entity 23 and registered thereto” (Bajko, page 11, lines 26-31). Thus, Bajko clearly fails to disclose or suggest issuing a re-registration notification to the user and disassociating all identities of the said user from the first serving controller in response to the registration termination request, as recited in the present claims.

Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above, Bajko fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of claims 1, 8, 14, and 18. Consequently Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 8, 14, and 18 be withdrawn.

Claims 2-7, 9-13, 15-17, and 19-22 are dependent upon claims 1, 8, 14, and 18, respectively. Accordingly, claims 2-7, 9-13, 15-17, and 19-22 should be allowed for at least their dependence upon claims 1, 8, 14, and 18, and for the specific limitations recited therein.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited prior art fails to disclose or suggest all of the elements of the claimed invention. These distinctions are more than sufficient to render the claimed invention unanticipated and unobvious. It is therefore respectfully requested that all of claims 1-22 be allowed, and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time; and Check No. 15032